

ISOPYRUM BITERNATUM (RAF.) T. & G. (RANUNCULACEAE) NEW TO VIRGINIA AND ITS DISTRIBUTION EAST OF THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS

While making collections along the Hyco River in Halifax County, Virginia, for the University of North Carolina Herbarium at Chapel Hill, we discovered a large population of *Isopyrum biternatum* (Raf.) T. & G. The infrequency of this plant east of the Appalachian Mountains led us to make a herbarium and literature search. No reports or specimens from Virginia were found, indicating that the Hyco River site is the first station for this species in the state.

This population of *Isopyrum* grows in the flat bottoms of the alluvial woods behind natural levees. Other interesting or relatively uncommon plants associated with it here at the Virginia site are *Viola eriocarpa* Schweinitz var. *eriocarpa*, *Cardamine douglasii* (Torrey) Britton, *Anemonella thalictroides* (L.) Spach, *Carex jamesii* Schweinitz and *Ranunculus micranthus* Nuttall ex T. & G. The levees are covered with *Mertensia virginica* (L.) Persoon which forms nearly unbroken bands of color along both sides of the river when *Isopyrum* is in flower.

Isopyrum was unknown east of the Appalachian Mountains until 1950 when it was found along the Eno River in Durham County, North Carolina, by Blomquist (Fox *et al.*, 1950). Since then additional stations have been found in other counties in the Carolinas: North Carolina, Lee Co. (Radford, 1952); Harnett Co. (Radford *et al.*, 1968); South Carolina, McCormick Co. (Radford, 1959). To this list can be added Person County, North Carolina, where we collected *Isopyrum* along the Hyco River south of the Virginia line on 29 March, 1974 (Boufford 12561 & Massey, NCU).

It seems unlikely that *Isopyrum biternatum* is a recent addition to the flora of the Piedmont, but it probably has been overlooked due to its early flowering time, its resemblance to the more widespread *Anemonella thalictroides*, and the often unappealing appearance of the habitat in

which it grows. It seems highly probable that searches along other major streams on the outer edge of the Piedmont will produce other stations for this species.

Specific collection data for the Virginia specimen are as follows: HALIFAX CO.: floodplain of Hyco River, junction of US Highway 501 and Hyco River, south of South Boston; flowers white, perennial, very abundant, growing with *Mertensia*; 12 April, 1974, *Massey 3867 & Boufford*.

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